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(11)

EP 0 693 505 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
24.01.1996 Bulletin 1996/04

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: C08F 36/04, C08F 4/48,
C08C 19/44, C07F 1/02

(21) Application number: 95110835.6

(22) Date of filing: 11.07.1995

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE ES FR GB IT

(30) Priority: 18.07.1994 US 276362

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(54) **Elastomers and products having reduced hysteresis and process for the preparation thereof**

(57) An anionic initiator system formed by the reaction product of: (1) an organolithium compound with (2) the reaction product of (a) a heterocyclic ring containing a secondary amine and

(b) diisopropenyl benzene, is employed to anionically initiate polymerization and to produce an elastomeric polymer containing heterocyclic functional sites incorporated at the head of the polymer chain. These polymers are compounded to exhibit reduced hysteresis over conventionally prepared polymers. Methods are also provided for preparing the functionalized polymers and elastomeric rubbers having reduced hysteresis.

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